

WALKER, NELLIE V

DRAWING 43

27 2001.235 03/25

SCULPTORS-W
(CASTS)


Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Nellie Verne Walker
Casts

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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THE YOUNG LINCOLN AT NEW SALEM

Ann Rutledge is at the left, Newton Graham, village teacher, is just at the right of the sculptured figure in this group designed for New Salem State park. Nellie V. Walker executed the model, called "Lincoln at New Salem," showing the emancipator's neighbors from 1831 to '37.

X
NELLIE V. WALKER
SCULPTOR

1941 Mt. Washington Ave.
Colorado Springs, Colo.
March 22, 1951.

Dear Dr. Warren:-

It was so good to see you recently at the Lions luncheon here in Colorado Springs. It gave me quite a lift, for I have not been too happy out here.

I am enclosing a picture of the head of Nancy Hanks I told you I had recently made. Its not a good picture but perhaps it will give you a notion of what the head is like.

I am also sending one of the pictures to Mrs. Ehrmann, as you suggested, and it will be interesting to know what her reaction may be.

I have been thinking a lot since I saw you here, about that series of Lincoln episodes which we talked about a long time ago and again after the luncheon. Might it be possible to find someone sufficiently interested in Lincoln lore to finance such a series of diorama-like groups for a private or public museum?.Its the sort of thing I could do and enjoy doing it. Please give it profound thought and tell me what you think!

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Nellie V. Walker





Nancy Starks

Miss T. Walker - &c

March 26, 1951

Miss Nellie V. Walker
1941 Mt. Washington Ave.
Colorado Springs, Colo.

My dear Miss Walker:

Thanks very much for your letter with the picture enclosed and I am happy indeed to have in for our collection and trust we may be able to find someone who is interested in the bust itself. It is a pleasure indeed to have met you at Colorado Springs.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:JK
L. A. Warren

"To My Son"

DAVID K. BARNWELL, Summit, N. J.: The poem asked for by R. M. F. in your issue of May 23 follows:

TO MY SON

Engraved on the Statue by Nellie
B. Walker

I will not say to you, "This is the
way, walk in it."

For I do not know your way, or
where the spirit may call you.

It may be to paths I have never
trod or ships on the sea lead-
ing to unimagined lands afar:

Or haply to a star!

Or yet again

Through dark and perilous places
racked with pain and full of
fear.

Your road may lead you far from
me or near,

I cannot guess or guide, but only
stand aside.

Just this I say: "I know for every
truth there is a way for each
to walk, a right for each to
choose, a truth to use."

And though you wander far, your
soul will know that true path
when you find it.

Therefore go!

I will fear nothing for you day or
night!

I will not grieve for you day or
night!

I will not grieve at all because
your light is called by some
new name.

It matters nought to call it star or
sun.

All is one.

I do not know where it may be
found. This is an old clipping
from some magazine.

Florence M. Smith, East Orange,
informed us that several years ago
she wrote Miss Walker about the
poem, who replied that it ex-
pressed the idea of the statue, but
that she did not write it. Its
authorship is unknown.

hate is simply and effectively told
and *sympathetic* pictures of Sioux

WINNIPEG CALLS IT G

Winnipeg Free Press: "...Some-
ity of, let us say, Waverly...a v
life...reader...led *cleverly* deep
filled with action...the practical
blend in 'Moccasin Flower' that t
with a double power. The book
a period novel..."

TAMPA CALLS IT UN

Tampa Daily Times: "...a vi
both love and hate...a *unique* sty
tale, one in which the reader seem
ing, but transported right into t

WEST VIRGINIA CALLS IT

Huntington Herald-Advertiser:
best...books I have read in a l
than its share of thrills, plus the
of the author..."

SPRINGFIELD CALLS IT

Springfield Republican: "...vivi
realistic story telling...plenty of
to finish..."

SPOKANE CALLS IT THR

Spokane Spokesman—Review: "
graphic experience and agonizing
author carries you along from o
to another..."

THE BOOK MASTER

Nellie Walker

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Nellie Verne Walker (December 8, 1874 - July 10, 1973), was an American sculptor best known for her statue of James Harlan in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol, Washington D.C.

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Early years

Nellie Verne Walker was born in Red Oak, Iowa, the daughter of Everett Walker, a stone carver and monument maker, and Jane Lindsay Walker. By the age of 17 she was allowed to use her father's tools and began making her own sculpture in her father's monument shop in Moulton, Iowa. Her first noteworthy work was a bust of Abraham Lincoln that was displayed at the Columbian Exposition in 1893, as an exhibit in the Iowa Building there, labeled "The work of an Iowa Girl". She was to return to the theme of Lincoln again in her career. Unable to afford to go to art school, Walker worked as a legal secretary for six years before she could obtain enough money to attend the Art Institute of Chicago.

At four foot eight (4'8") and less than a hundred pounds she seemed an unlikely candidate to be able to meet and to succeed at the very physical demands placed on a sculptor, but the teacher, Lorado Taft decided to give her a chance and they were to remain friends and co-workers for the rest of their lives. When Taft died in 1936, leaving much of the *George Washington, Robert Morris, Haym Salomon Memorial* undone, Walker was one of several sculptors who were commissioned to finish the piece (1941). Not long thereafter she began getting her own commissions and so moved into studio space in the famous (in sculpture circles) Midway Studio where she shared space with Taft and other Chicago sculptors.

In 1902, Colorado Springs reclusive millionaire W. S. Stratton died and someone there realized that Walker was in town and asked her to make a death mask, which she did. The family was so impressed with Walker that they commissioned her to do a bust, followed by a large carved granite cemetery marker and finally an over-life-sized statue of Stratton. All are still in the Colorado Springs area.

Lorado Taft, in his groundbreaking *The History of American Sculpture* mentions Walker as a significant young sculptor and specifically refers to her Chief Keokuk statue. Like many other sculptors of her era Walker created both architectural and cemetery sculpture.

She was a member of the National Sculpture Society and was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of

Fame in 1987. Late in life, following the 1948 destruction of her Chicago studio, Walker moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado where she occasionally modeled pottery for the Van Briggles Pottery company. She died there in 1973.

Monuments

- Winfield Scott Stratton, (1907), Colorado Springs, Colorado
- James Harlan, (1909), National Statuary Hall Collection, Washington D.C.
- Chief Keokuk, (1913), Keokuk, Iowa,
- Senator Isaac Stephenson, (1921), Marinette, Wisconsin
- Memorial to Soldiers of the War of 1812, (1929), Springfield, Illinois
- Suffrage Memorial Panel, (1934), Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines, Iowa
- Lincoln Trail State Memorial, (1937), near Lawrenceville, Illinois
- figure of Haym Salomon for the Washington, Morris, Salomon Monument, (1941), Chicago, Illinois

Architectural sculpture

- figures of *Friendship* and *Character*, (1929) Michigan League Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Monumental figures of Moses and Socrates for the courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi
- Panels, Iowa State University Library, Ames, Iowa
- Royal Neighbors Building, (1927) Rock Island, Illinois

Cemetery works

- Winfield Scott Stratton, (1905), Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Lillian Watson , (1909), Chicago, Illinois
- Delos Diggins, (1909), Cadillac, Michigan
- Johannes Decker, (1910), Battle Creek, Michigan
- Fred and Carrie Diggins, (1916), Cadillac, Michigan
- W.W. Mitchell, (1916), Cadillac, Michigan
- Helen McMullen, (1919), Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Charles W. Shippey, (1922), Chicago, Illinois
- Myron L. Learned, (1928), Omaha, Nebraska
- Milton T. Barlow, (1930), Omaha, Nebraska
- Carl Gray, [(1940), Baltimore, Maryland
- Butterfield Monument, (ca. 1920), Grand Rapids, Michigan

Sources

- *Contemporary American Sculpture*, The California Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, San Francisco, The National Sculpture Society 1929
- Hunt, Inez, *the Lady who Lived on Ladders*, Filter Press, Palmer Lake, Colorado, 1970
- Kvaran, Einar Einarsson *Cemetery Sculpture in America*, unpublished manuscript

- McConnell, Susan, *Public Treasures: Outdoor Sculpture in the Pikes Peak Region*, City of Colorado Springs, Parks and Recreation Department, 1995
- Opitz, Glenn B , Editor, *Mantle Fielding's Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors & Engravers*, Apollo Book, Poughkeepsie NY, 1986
- Rubenstein, Charlotte Streifer, *American Women Sculptors*, G.K. Hall & Co., Boston 1990
- Taft, Lorado, *The History of American Sculpture*, MacMillan Co., New York, NY 1925

External links

- WIU (http://www.wiu.edu/art/public_art/html/royelneighb.html)
- UIUC Library (<http://images.library.uiuc.edu/projects/taft/images/photo133.jpg>)
- Iowa State University Library (<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/narrative-main/2024/10731>)

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Categories: American sculptors People from Chicago, Illinois

People from Colorado Springs, Colorado 1874 births 1973 deaths American women artists

Artists from Iowa

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WALKER, MOLLIE V

DRAWING 23

SCULPTORS - W
(CASTS)

